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Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 HA-02 EB-04 L-01 SP-02 OMB-01
TRSE-00 IO-06 EUR-08 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 /048 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:KMCCORMICK:DH
APPROVED BY AF/S:GMOOSE
HA/ORM:GMETSON
----------049243 190020Z /64
O R 182337Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211343

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, BC, RH

SUBJECT: ICRC ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN IN BOTSWANA
REFUGEE CAMPS

REF: GABORONE 2504 (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENT IS DEEPLY CONCERNED BY REPORT (PARA 2 REFTEL) OF ALLEGED REFUSAL OF ICRC BOTSWANA TO ASSIST CHILDREN IN REFUGEE CAMPS WHO MAY WISH TO REJOIN THEIR PARENTS OR INFORM THEM OF THEIR WHEREABOUTS. IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN THE CAMPS, THE CONFIDENTIAL

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REPORTED OUTBREAK OF MENINGITIS, PAST INCIDENTS OF ABDUCTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN BY ZAPU AND INDICATIONS THAT IT MAY NOW BE ENCOURAGING REFUGEES TO FLEE RHODESIA AS A MEANS OF INDICATING DISAPPROVAL OF INTERNAL ACCORD, IT IS IMPORTANT TO TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO GET THOSE WHO DO NOT NEED OR WISH TO REMAIN IN THE CAMPS OUT OF THEM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. WE PRESUME RED CROSS

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SHARES USG CONCERN THAT IF THERE ARE CHILDREN IN THE CAMPS WHO WISH TO BE REUNITED WITH THEIR PARENTS THEY SHOULD BE HELPED TO DO SO REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL CROSS-PRESSURES. IF IT IS TRUE THAT STEINAMAN REJECTED POSSIBILITY OF FACILITATING THEIR RETURN, INFORMING PARENTS OF

THEIR WHEREABOUTS OR EVEN TAKING A CENSUS TO DETERMINE THEIR WISHES "BECAUSE NKOMO OPPOSED IT," WE CAN UNDERSTAND BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER'S REPORTED ANGER.

2. PAST REPORTING SUGGESTS THAT GOB WOULD NOT TOLERATE A POLICY OF ALLOWING CHILDREN TO BE BROUGHT TO OR KEPT IN REFUGEE CAMPS AGAINST THEIR WISHES IN ORDER TO EXPLOIT POLITICAL ADVANTAGE OR AVOID POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT. HOWEVER, EMBASSY SHOULD IMMEDIATELY APPROACH ICRC TO ASCERTAIN ITS ATTITUDE ON ISSUE OF FACILITATING RETURN OF CHILDREN WHO WISH TO REJOIN FAMILIES. PLEASE ALSO PROVIDE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE YOUR OWN ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THERE MAY BE CHILDREN IN THE CAMPS WHO WISH TO CONTACT OR REJOIN THEIR PARENTS AND THUS APPARENT GROUNDS FOR BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER'S CONCERN. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE REGARDING STEPS HE PLANS TO TAKE TO FOLLOW UP.
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3. REFTEL BEING REPEATED TO GENEVA FOR INFO.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHILDREN, REFUGEE RELIEF
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780846/aaaabmkg.tel
Line Count: 97
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: a347e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1688490
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICRC ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN IN BOTSWANA
TAGS: SREF, BC, RH
To: GABORONE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a347e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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